

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Pastor's Conf. slated for October 30

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The 2006 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference will kick off at 1:30 p.m. on October 30 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. "I pray this year's conference will be a great time of spiritual renewal and a time of rekindling the fire in our hearts, said Joe Turner, conference president and pastor of First Church, Horn Lake.

"Our theme this year is, Let the Fire Fall. It is based on I Kings 18:24 which says, 'And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.'

"We want to focus on Jesus, not man, in this conference. We desire for God to stir our hearts and give us a fresh vision for our place of service. The fire is going to fall on America. I pray the fire will fall in revival, not in judgment."

Scheduled to preach are Jim Butler, pastor of Village Church in Oklahoma City and former pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven; James Merritt, pastor of Crosspointe Church in Duluth, Georgia, and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Fred Wolfe, member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, and former pastor of Dauphin Way Church, Mobile; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Church, Cordova, Tennessee; Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Church, New Orleans; and Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Church, Woodstock, Georgia.

Greg Sims, minister of worship at First Church, Horn Lake, will lead worship and praise. He will be joined by the Celebration Choir, Praise and Worship Team, and Holy Ground Youth Drama Team, all from First Church, Horn Lake; the Saba Sisters of Memphis; Shelia Whitfield of Brandon; and Diane Fox.



### 2006 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference

#### October 30, Session One

- 1:30 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Greg Sims
- Praise and Worship Team  
First Church, Horn Lake
- 1:40 p.m. — Welcome and Prayer  
Joe Turner
- 1:50 p.m. — Message in Song  
Saba Sisters
- 1:55 p.m. — Message  
Jim Butler
- 2:35 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Holy Ground Youth Drama Team
- 2:40 p.m. — Election of Officers

- 2:45 p.m. — Special Music  
Saba Sisters
- 2:05 p.m. — Message  
James Merritt
- 3:30 p.m. — Offertory Prayer  
Phil Anderson
- 3:35 p.m. — A Word of Wisdom  
from Adrian Rogers
- 3:45 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Greg Sims
- Praise and Worship Team
- 3:50 p.m. — Special Music  
Shelia Whitfield
- 3:55 p.m. — Message  
Fred Wolfe
- 4:35 p.m. — Prayer  
Tim Smith

#### October 30, Session Two

- 6:20 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Greg Sims
- 6:25 p.m. — Welcome and Prayer  
Joe Turner
- 6:35 p.m. — Message in Song  
Celebration Choir
- First Church, Horn Lake
- 6:40 p.m. — Message  
Steve Gaines
- 7:15 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Greg Sims
- 7:20 p.m. — Special Music  
Celebration Choir
- 7:25 p.m. — Message  
Fred Luter
- 8 p.m. — Concert of Praise  
Celebration Choir
- 8:20 p.m. — Offertory Prayer  
Derek Westmoreland
- 8:25 p.m. — A Word of Wisdom  
from Adrian Rogers
- 8:35 p.m. — Worship and Praise  
Diane Fox, Soloist
- Holy Ground Youth Drama Team
- 8:40 p.m. — Special Music  
Celebration Choir
- 8:45 p.m. — Message  
Johnny Hunt
- 9:25 p.m. — Prayer  
Shannon Marshall



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## Miss. CP slips in September

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in September dropped slightly from the previous month but continued its rise over the same giving period last year, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. The September total of \$2,797,991, was \$277,177, or 9%, lower than the \$3,075,168 given last month, and \$360,225, or 14.8% above the total given in September 2005. Total Mississippi CP giving for the current fiscal year, which runs from January-December, stands at \$25,915,803, a rise of \$1,612,673, or 6.6%, over last year's giving through September and \$2,429,935, 10.35%, ahead of current budget needs. The 2006 Mississippi CP budget of \$31,314,491, was approved by messengers to the 2005 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,609,541 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2006. Messengers to the 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention of October 31-November 1 at First Church, Jackson, will consider a record-setting proposed 2007 Mississippi CP budget of \$33,188,934. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP helps fund such programs as Preschool Missions Education Leadership Training on October 21 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton.

## SBC CP tops \$200M for year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Through the end of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) fiscal year on September 30, contributions through the SBC Cooperative Program (CP) were 2.37% above the previous fiscal year, topping the \$200-million mark for the first time, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. As of Sept. 30, the final total for the SBC Cooperative Program's 2005-06 fiscal year stood at \$200,601,536 — \$4,653,113.74 above the \$195,948,423 received during the 2004-05 fiscal year, for a gain of 2.37%. For the month, receipts of \$17,477,916 were 5.9%, or \$973,044, above the \$16,504,872 received in September 2005. Designated giving of \$191,428,618 for the fiscal year was 9%, or \$1,698,784, above gifts of \$189,729,834 received last year. The \$3,876,404 in designated gifts received last month were \$2,562,201 below the \$6,438,605 received in September 2005, a decrease of 39.8%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, fiscal year total of \$200,601,536 was 105.65% of the \$189,865,254.85 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. It is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund of which 100% of monies go to aid the needy in the general public.





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# A new low for the pretenders

Those of us who attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting each summer are accustomed to seeing the neon-colored signs with the awful slogans and drawings being carried by children on behalf of Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas — signs that read, "God Hates Fags," "God Hates America," "God Hates You," and the like.

Members of the unaffiliated church (many of whom are relatives of Fred Phelps, who has pastored the church since 1955) have ratcheted up their message of divine hatred by demonstrating at the funerals of military personnel killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. The signs they use at the funerals — again carried by young children — contain slogans such as "Thank God for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices)." They have even picketed Billy Graham Crusades with signs that state, "Billy Graham is a Lying Whore," and "Billy in Hell."

The church reached a new low last week, however, when they announced they would protest at the funerals of the young Amish girls slaughtered in their one-room schoolhouse in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Armed with their disgusting signs, they were prepared to heap more anguish on the girls' families and community when nationally-syndicated talk show host Mike Gallagher offered them free air time on his show if they called off the protest.

Ring leader Shirley Phelps-Rogers agreed, Gallagher came through with his part of the bargain, and the gentle Amish were allowed to mourn in peace.

Phelps-Rogers, an attorney and daughter of Fred Phelps, couldn't resist one last shot, however. Appearing on Hannity and Colmes

on the Fox News network, Phelps-Rogers proudly boasted, "Those girls deserved to die ... Those children were killed at the hands of a raging mad God to punish those families, to punish the State of Pennsylvania."

Why did God act to destroy the children? According to a press release from Westboro Baptist Church, the mass murders served as punishment for Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell's "blasphemous sins against WBC (Westboro Baptist Church)."

The press release went on to detail those sins thusly: "Gov. Ed Rendell — speaking and acting in his official capacity to bind the State of Pennsylvania — slandered and mocked and ridiculed and condemned Westboro Baptist Church on national Fox TV."

So there you have it. Those five little innocent Amish girls had to die so God could even the score with a politician who spoke out against Westboro Baptist Church and their manner of protest.

While many people have heard of the sick misrepresentation of Christianity called Westboro Baptist Church, most do not know of Pastor Fred Phelps' connection to Mississippi.

Fred Phelps was born in Meridian in 1929 and, according to an e-mail inquiry answered by Phelps-Rogers, attended Central Methodist Church and Southside Baptist Church while living in Meridian. Fred Phelps' website biography also states that he was "ordained by the Southern



**Fred Phelps**

Baptists." Phelps-Rogers writes in her e-mail reply that the ordination took place at First Baptist Church of Vernal, Utah.

Southern Baptists have been quick to disown him and his church, however. Earlier this year, then-SBC President Bobby Welch said, "Southern Baptists have consistently condemned and officially distanced themselves from Phelps' hate-filled activities."

"It is incorrigible that any person for any reason would take such devastating advantage of broken hearted children, spouses, and parents, at a funeral of their loved one, to draw attention to themselves. Such an ignorant and uncaring disregard for people's deep feelings will undoubtedly cut into raw nerves that will produce unpredictable negative results."

The next time the Westboro pretenders proclaim the name of Jesus Christ but do so for their own glorification, we should remember those wise words.

Who says that television networks don't have standards? The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) certainly does. Recently NBC allowed its conscience to be its guide and edited a cartoon aimed at kids so it would meet the network's standards.

Several weeks ago NBC began airing Veggie Tales, a long-running and successful video series known for its moral messages and Christian content. However, the network deemed the cartoon's references to God to be inappropriate and ordered them edited out.

In fact, the signature sign-off of the two most well-known Veggie Tales characters was regarded to be too controversial. At the conclusion of each episode, Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber say, "Remember kids, God made you special and He loves you very much."

According to NBC, that tagline came too close to "advocating one religious point of view."

Defending NBC's decision to edit Veggie Tales was Alan Wurtzel, a broadcast standards executive at the network. "There is a fine line of universally accepted religious values," he said. "We don't get too specific with any particular religious doctrine or

## GUEST OPINION:



### A peculiar set of standards

By Kelly Boggs, editor  
*Louisiana Baptist Message*

any particular religious denomination."

The line of what NBC considers to be "universally accepted religious values" must be exceedingly fine, because the network has no trouble flaunting behaviors that most religions consider sinful.

Take The Book of Daniel, for example. It was canceled by NBC earlier this year due to poor ratings, and featured an Episcopal priest addicted to prescription drugs whose wife was an alcoholic. The couple had three children — a drug-dealing daughter, a sexually-active straight son, and a sexually-active homosexual son.

If the above scenario was not sufficiently dysfunctional, the priest's father, also a member of the clergy, was having a sexual relationship with a

female bishop. Additionally, the priest's lesbian secretary was involved sexually with the priest's sister-in-law.

In the midst of all this immoral and sinful behavior, a cool, hip Jesus periodically would appear to visit the priest and offer tidbits of tolerant, non-judgmental advice.

If The Book of Daniel had received better ratings it would still be on the air, despite the fact that it mocked the values of religion in general and Christianity specifically. Apparently, sexual purity and an avoidance of substance abuse are not part of the "fine line of universally accepted religious values" that NBC recognizes.

Commenting on the Veggie Tales issue, Brent Bozell of the Media Research Center wrote, "NBC is the network that hired

a squad of lawyers to argue that dropping the F-bomb on the Golden Globe Awards isn't indecent for children..."

NBC, it seems, believes telling a child "God loves you" is potentially more harmful than introducing that same child to profanity.

While NBC is busy editing references to God from Veggie Tales, the network is considering airing a Madonna special in November with a mock crucifixion. The pop icon attaches herself to a mirrored cross and dons a crown of thorns as she sings.

NBC believes telling children that God loves them is potentially offensive, but mocking a central tenet of Christianity is not. The network believes telling children that God made them special is potentially problematic but flaunting sinful behavior is not. Well, you can say this about NBC — at least the network is consistent.

NBC has its standards alright. It is just that respect for someone's deeply held religious beliefs do not seem to be a part of the network's "fine line of universally accepted religious values," especially if those beliefs happen to belong to Christianity.

*Boggs' commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.*



# Coop. Program giving reaches new heights

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP and local reports) — It has a world-wide impact, stretching from Southern Baptist churches in all 50 states to mission fields across the globe, connecting church members with missionaries in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The Cooperative Program (CP) surpassed \$200 million in gifts for national causes for the first time in the Southern Baptist Convention's history during the fiscal year that ended September 30, according to an October 3 announcement by Morris H. Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee.

In the Gulf Coast states struck by Hurricane Katrina, Southern Baptists showed resiliency and resolve in maintaining support for Cooperative Program causes.

Chapman, a native of Kosciusko, described the \$200-million record as "a remarkable reminder that so many are giving faithfully, Sunday after Sunday, through the Cooperative Program. These multiple-upon-multiple sacrificial contributions make it possible to achieve so much more together in cooperative missions, ministries and theology than we could ever accomplish without each other."

"Moreover, this level of giving through the CP as a manifestation of Southern Baptist cooperation is an extraordinary testimony at a time when some mainline denominations have experienced reduced contributions resulting

in cuts to their national programs," Chapman said. "Yet, so much more needs to be done, and I pray that Southern Baptists around the nation will press even harder to support our unified efforts through the Cooperative Program to reach the lost, minister to the hurting and provide biblical leadership to our country and the world."

Through their \$200 million in gifts, Southern Baptists have supported 10,000-plus missionaries carrying the Gospel to remote regions overseas, to America's inner cities and an array of localities in between.

Cooperative Program gifts opened doors for seminary training for a new generation of missionaries and pastors and other workers called to various facets of fulltime outreach. CP gifts also supported Southern Baptists' witness amid the nation's battle over family values and religious liberty. State Baptist conventions, meanwhile, also utilized Cooperative Program gifts from the churches in carrying out the broad scope of their evangelism and discipleship initiatives.

In reaching the \$200-million threshold, SBC President Frank Page stated, "To say that this [milestone] causes a great deal of excitement is a tremendous understatement."

There is much to be gleaned from this juncture in SBC life, said Page, pastor of First Baptist



**KINGDOM ADVANCES** — A Russian house church recently baptized five young people in a lake near Izhevsk from the remote Udmurt people group of central Russia. The Cooperative Program helps pave the way for Southern Baptist workers to spread the Gospel among the Udmurts and all the peoples of the world. (BP photo)

Church in Taylors, S.C., listing three questions: "What does it mean? What does it teach? What is God saying to us through this?"

"First of all, it means that Southern Baptists care about ministry, care about educating young men and women, but most of all care about missions," Page said. "It means that we truly believe that we can do more together than we can do separately."

Second, Page continued, "It teaches us that the Cooperative

Program is an object of worth, one of value, which continues to need focus, emphasis and appreciation."

Third, Page cited Luke 12:48 — "Much will be required of everyone who has been given much" (HCS) — in noting, "This level of stewardship on the part of God's people calls us to be serious in how this money is spent. It requires all [SBC] entities to recognize that the hand of God's blessing is great, therefore the responsibility is equally great."

## Canada eyes religious bill

OTTAWA, Ontario (BP) — Public officials in Canada who oppose homosexual marriage won't be forced to conduct same-sex ceremonies if a religious freedom bill being considered by the Conservative government passes, the Globe and Mail newspaper reported October 4. The bill under consideration by the Conservatives, who control Parliament, would protect justices of the peace who morally oppose homosexual marriage, the newspaper said. It also would prevent churches from being forced to rent their buildings for same-sex ceremonies and receptions. The Conservatives would propose the bill only if a separate motion to reopen the homosexual marriage debate fails, the newspaper said. Under that motion, Parliament would be asked if it wants to consider overturning a recently passed law that legalized homosexual marriage. That law was pushed through Parliament in 2005 by the former Liberal government before it lost power to the Conservatives. The religious freedom bill is being called the Defense of Religions Act, the Globe and Mail said. "The nature of the concerns that are being raised with me are relating to freedom of religion and freedom to practice religion [and] freedom of expression," Conservative Justice Minister Vic Toews told the newspaper. "[P]rime Minister [Stephen Harper] has indicated that he is bringing the matter forward — the issue of same-sex marriage — on a free vote, and there may be certain options open to the government as to what the response should be in either event, whether that opening is successful or not successful." A vote on whether to reopen the homosexual marriage question is expected to take place later this year, possibly in December. The aforementioned "free vote" will allow each member of Parliament, or MP, to vote according to his or her conscience instead of being told to vote the party line. Canada is one of four countries to recognize homosexual marriage. The others are Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands. A fifth country, South Africa, likely will join that list in December. In the U.S., the State of Massachusetts also recognizes homosexual marriage.

## Looking back

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approves a far-reaching plan Oct. 14 that proponents say will allow Mississippi to bypass the epidemic of Baptist institutions severing ties with affiliated state Baptist conventions.

Scores of people walking by the midway at the Mississippi State Fair are intrigued by the offer at the Mississippi Child Evangelism Fellowship tent to hear an explanation of salvation presented through a "wordless book."

California Baptists write to thank the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for sponsoring Mississippi College student John Holston in his summer ministry effort to help organize Vacation Bible Schools in The Golden State.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

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## GRUMPY

There is a lot I don't understand about grumpiness. I do believe that all of us have a capacity to be grumpy. While Grumpy is one of the Seven Dwarfs in a cute little story, he also (or sometimes she also) has a huge, ever growing family that has found its way into the church, school, work, home, hospital, nursing home, clinic, and office. I suppose when they do not have anything else to do they just go out and drive and display their grumpiness. Grumpiness is an attitude that generally expresses itself in some visible and disruptive manner. Given the right room temperature, the wrong set of circumstances, and a strange set of people around you, almost anybody can have a twinge of grumpiness. So join me for a few minutes as we think about grumpiness.

To begin our thought process let's look at how grumpiness creates a feud. Almost anywhere you look where there is a fuss, a feud, a fight going on, a battle, or a war, you can almost trace it back to somebody who is grumpy. Just watch and you will see it over and over. Whether it is in the Middle East, in the halls of Congress, at the United Nations, or just down the street, grumpiness stirs up a stink. As a dear old friend of mine told me years ago about church fuses, "The more you stir a stink, the stinkier it gets." Have you ever seen a dog that walks around with his lips curled up in snarl and his teeth always showing? That same old mutt probably sits around in his spare time wondering why he gets in so many fights. Grumpiness can change

the course of a discussion and move it in a wrong direction. It can sour the atmosphere in a room and ruin what otherwise was a good day. It always seems to be a part of a feud.

Take a step forward and think about how grumpiness is viewed. For one thing we generally think grumpiness is just a rather insignificant area of life, but not so in Scripture. It is a bottom line, cut-to-the-chase issue in the Bible. Most of us reduce the Christian life to something that can be seen or at least placed on an activity level, so being a good Christian is opening your Bible, going to enough services, or doing more of the outward spiritual things. Listen to the Apostle Paul as he talks about the Spirit of God at work in us and the fruit that is produced when God is at work. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Gal 5:22). In other words when God is at work in us, He is dealing with our attitudes, our spirits, and our demeanors. He is moving us away from our grumpiness. We see grumpiness as only a minor glitch in someone's disposition while God views it as something major at the core of the person.



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

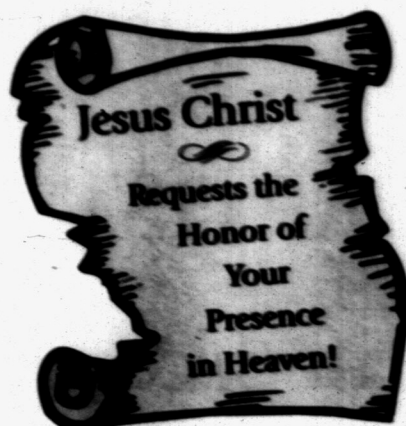
Another aspect of how grumpiness is viewed is the amazing ability that most of us have to see it in others while blinded to it in ourselves. Maybe that was one of the things that Jesus was talking about in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, "Don't go around picking the sawdust speck out of someone's eye when there are huge pieces of lumber in your own" (Matt 7:3-4). Whether we see it in ourselves or not, we are usually masters of being able to detect it in others. You can feel a rotten disposition before someone ever opens his/her mouth. You know by the way they stand, walk, or cut their eyes toward you that someone has their stinger out, but it is hard to view when it is us. What we see as bad disposition and "old bear" grumpiness in others, we prefer to assess in ourselves as tiredness or seriousness about the situation. I have known some folks who were world class in their capacity to be grumpy. I do not know if there is a contest, something like a beauty pageant or a playoff, that picks the grumpiest person. Besides that I would hate to nominate someone for the contest

because that same person may want to nominate me.

There is one final thought that I want you to realize about grumpiness, and that is that God will renew our spirits by the power of Jesus Christ. It is an amazing thing that He can take folks like the Sons of Thunder, who wanted to call down fire from heaven and destroy people, and turn them into apostles of love, life, and light. It is remarkable to watch Paul and Silas as they sing praises at midnight in the jail cell. The jailer, the man in charge and responsible for them receiving a severe beating before the night began, was the same man who before the night was over had experienced a total disposition change. He had an attitude adjustment by the power of Jesus. Before the sun rose the next day, the man who had administered the beating was washing their stripes and sores.

When you see someone who is grumpy, does that mean the person has not met the Lord? Not necessarily. When you catch yourself being the grump of the day, does it mean that you are not saved? Not necessarily, but what it may point to is the fact that you and I have not allowed Jesus to exercise His love and grace to control our spirits. They can go in the wrong direction, hurt someone else, poison a relationship, or paralyze someone else's development. What we need to do is yield to Him and allow Him to reshape our grumpiness into His glory. He can, He will, and He does.

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2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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# Miss. Association marks 200 years of service

**LIBERTY, Miss. (Special)** — The Mississippi Baptist Association will celebrate 200 years of service for Jesus Christ in two special services on October 19-20.

On October 19 at 7 p.m., a special musical presentation at Mars Hill Church, Summit, will be presented by choir members of the association's churches. Music will be led by Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). After the meeting, refreshments will be served.

On October 20, the celebration will be held at Woodville Church, Woodville. Jim Futral, MBCB executive director-treasurer, will bring the message at the 9:45 a.m. meeting. Lunch will be served afterward.

The work of Baptists in Mississippi began in 1780, when the families of Richard Curtis and Daniel Ogden, and the Perkins family, left their homes in South Carolina and traveled by flat boats to the very primitive area called the Natchez Territory, along the Mississippi River. They landed at the mouth of Cole's Creek, about twenty miles above Natchez.

By 1791, Salem Church was established there, becoming the first Baptist church in Mississippi. In 1798, a mission

church of Salem was formed in Wilkinson County. This church was constituted in 1800 as Bethel Church and was later renamed Woodville Church. Immigrants coming into the area organized another church at New Hope on Second Creek in Adams County in 1800. A few years later, two churches were organized in Amite County: New Providence in 1805 and Ebenezer in 1806.

It became logical for these five churches to band together in cooperation and fellowship. Salem Church led in this plan and the first Baptist association in Mississippi was born and named Mississippi Baptist Association.

From that time forward, the Baptist faith flourished in Mississippi. In 1818, there were 40 churches in the association. The territory of the association extended from New Orleans on the south to Claiborne and Copiah counties on the north. The eastern boundary extended beyond the Pearl River in Mississippi, and the western boundary went as far as the Louisiana Opelousas country. At this time, the association spanned an area that was approximately 200 miles from north to south and 150 miles from east to west.

The annual meetings were held at different churches in the association. Travel to these meetings was often arduous and lengthy, by foot, horseback, or raft. There were no roads as we know them today; there were little more than trails made by the Indians or settlers.

Accommodations on the trails were meager and hostile inhabitants in some areas made traveling dangerous. This territory was largely a vast wilderness when the Mississippi Association came into existence. Average travel time was 25-30 miles per day. Some delegates spent several days in reaching the places of the annual meetings. At one meeting, it was stated that the delegates from east of the Pearl River came 75 miles. These delegates were willing to pay a heavy price for the privilege of worshipping God.

Mississippi Association is now headquartered in Liberty and is comprised of 29 churches in Amite and Wilkinson counties. The meetings on October 19-20 celebrate two hundred years of Christ's providential hand on this region and point to a bright future of Baptist work continuing and growing in these two counties.

For more information and for driving directions, contact Mississippi Association at (601) 657-4983.

## Bibliocipher

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KH WKDW VDFULLFHWK  
XQWR DQB JRG, VDYH  
XQWR WKH ORUG  
RQOB, KH VKDOO EH  
XWWHUOB GHVWURB-  
HG.

HARGXV WZHQB-WZR:  
WZHQB

Clue: X = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Isaiah Fifty-Two: Ten.

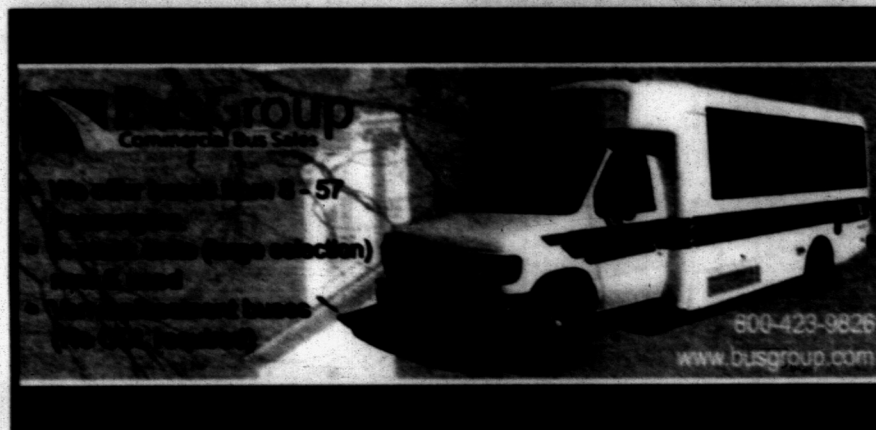
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**HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, FLORENCE, MISS.**, is seeking a bivocational music minister. Please send resumes to attn: search committee, 203 Ridge Park Cove North, Raymond, MS 39154 or email [derle@jam.rr.com](mailto:derle@jam.rr.com).

**TRACE RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, RIDGELAND, MISS.**, is accepting resumes for pastor through November 15, 2006. Send resume to Trace Ridge Baptist Church, Helen Barber, chairperson, P.O. Box 2726, Ridgeland, MS 39158. No emails.

**HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, TUPELO, MISS.**, seeks a full-time Director of childhood education. Prefer seminary-trained with large church Sunday School and children's worship experience. Send resumes to Gary Waters, 506 Lake Park Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801.

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**MURPHY CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH, LOUISVILLE, MISS.**, is seeking a part-time youth director. Please send resume and references to Murphy Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Youth Director Search Committee, 5420 Bond Rd., Louisville, MS 39339.

**NEEDED: PIANO PLAYER, SUNDAYS ONLY.** Eagle Lake Baptist Church, please respond to Joann Parker at (601) 270-4417.

**POCAHONTAS BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time youth pastor. Send resumes to Pocahontas Baptist Church, 4200 Kickapoo Road, Jackson, MS 39209 or call (601) 982-2305.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HICKORY FLAT, MISS.**, is looking for a bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, attn: minister of music search committee, P.O. Box 98, Hickory Flat, MS 38633.

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**MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND PRESCHOOL:** Tuscaloosa, Alabama area church is accepting resumes for the full-time position of Minister of Children and Preschool. Please send resumes to: Five Points Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 3718 36th Street, Northport, AL, 35473 or email to [5pointspastor@comcast.net](mailto:5pointspastor@comcast.net).



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. GA Coronation, Bethel Church, Lawrence Association



4. Wicker Licensed to Ministry, Calvary Church, Smithdale



5. Deacon Ordination, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Assoc.



6. Penny Collection, Unity Church, Leakesville



7. Rogers and May, Wyattte Church, Senatobia



1. Bethel Church, Lawrence Association, recognized their GAs with a coronation service. Shown, back row, are Jana Summers, Claire Ward, Leigh Ann Reeves, and Sally Davis; front row, Mary Catherine Morrison, Garyn Miller, Erin Rushing, Molly Vinson, and Laken Hawn.

2. Leaf River Church, Smith County, will host the Dixie Echoes Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m. Love offering taken; fellowship afterwards; for information, call (601) 782-4493.

3. Cedar View Church, Olive Branch, is hosting a community singing Oct. 21, 6 p.m., featuring The Peppers and Good News.

4. Calvary Church, Smithdale, licensed Gerald F. Wicker to the ministry Sept. 3 after preaching at the morning worship service. Shown are Wicker and pastor Chad Carney.

5. Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association, ordained Bruce Wallis and Paul Walker as deacons Sept. 10. Shown are Wallis, Walker, and pastor Robert E. Walker.

6. Duston Ball, Unity Church, Leakesville, is shown adding pennies collected by the church's children to be sent to Jackson as part of the Memorial to the Missing.

7. Wyattte Church, Senatobia, recently ordained John Allen May, student minister, to the ministry. Shown are pastor Scott Rogers and May.

8. The GAs of Ackerman Church, Ackerman, collected items for missionary Dawn Wilder as part of their summer missions project. Shown are the participants.

9. First Church, Ripley, held a 72-hour crusade Sept. 9-11. Shown are Jim Futral, transitional pastor P. J. Scott, Graham Smith, and Tom Young.

10. The Children in Action of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, received their badges for their Christmas in



8. GAs, Ackerman Church, Ackerman



9. 72 Hour Crusade, First Church, Ripley



10. Children in Action, Coldwater Church, Participants



11. Buitt Ordination, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven

August project Sept. 10, collecting items for the Anchor House, Palmetto, Fla. Shown are the participants.

Shown are David Williams, Ronnie Robinson, Buitt, Heather Buitt, Taylor Buitt, and pastor Danny Singleton.

11. Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, ordained Buster Buitt as deacon Sept. 10.

◆ ◆ ◆



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

12. Barlow and wife,  
First Church, Richton

12. First Church, Richton, ordained their youth minister, Jason Barlow, to the ministry Aug. 20. He and his wife Courtney will be leaving for the mission field in 2007.

13. Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, licensed Brian Everitt to the gospel ministry. Shown are Everitt and pastor John Vaughn.

14. Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, ordained Tommy Key, Jr., as deacon. Shown are Key and Vaughn.

15. Beulah Church, Newton County, recently recognized nursery workers for faithful and long-time service. Shown, from left, are Shirley Harrison, 33 years; Shirley Glenn, 20 years; and Catherine Blackwell, almost 40 years. Blackwell has served in the nursery during worship services for four decades.

16. Star Church, Star, recently recognized its GAs who completed a World Venture activity book at their Aug. 6 recognition service. Shown are the GAs.

17. Williamsburg Church, Kosciusko, recently ordained Jeremy McCrory to the ministry. He is now attending New Orleans Seminary, and is seen here with his wife Laura and interim pastor Billy Williams. He and Laura have a son, Jonah.

18. The GAs of Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven, held their GA Recognition Service on Sept. 17. Shown are the participants.

19. The WMU of First Church, McLaurin, sponsored a rummage sale in August raising \$379 toward the construction of a new sanctuary.

20. Some of the ladies at Mt. Olive Church, Coila, wore hats during the month of September every Sunday in observance of the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering. The church exceeded their goal amount. Shown are the participants.

16. GAs Recognition Service, Star Church, Star

17. McCrory Ordained, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

18. GA Recognition, Heucks Retreat Church, Brookhaven

20. Margaret Lackey Observance, Mt. Olive Church, Coila

13. Everitt and Vaughn, Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie

14. Vaughn and Key, Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie

15. Nursery Workers Recognized, Beulah Church, Newton County

### Correction

A photo from Calvary Church, Petal, in the August 31 issue of The Baptist Record identified Charles Tweedy as pastor. Tweedy is the minister of youth.

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## COLLEGE NEWS



2. Church-Related Vocations Banquet, BMC

1. The Mississippi College School of Nursing will host a health fair at First Church, Jackson, fourth floor, Oct. 31, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
2. The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board recently held the annual Church-Related Vocations banquet at Blue Mountain College. The E.R. Pinson Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Dallas Pitts, a senior Biblical studies major from Columbus, and Jack Napier, a senior Biblical studies major from Detroit, Mich. The Therman V. Bryant Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Robert Ekis, a senior Biblical studies major from Huntsville, Ala. Pictured (left to right) are Jim Futral, Ronald Meeks, Pitts, Ekis, Napier, and Douglas Bain.

## OBITUARY

**Jack H. Gregory, 73**, died Oct. 5 at his home. Funeral services were Oct. 7 at Broadmoor Church, Madison, with Barry Littlefield and Bill Hardin officiating.

Gregory was a native of Ware Shoals, S.C. He held degrees from North Greenville Junior College, Furman University, Southeastern Seminary, and Jacksonville Center for Biblical Studies. He pastored in North and South Carolina, West Heights Church, Pontotoc, First Church, Poplarville, Southwestern Church, in Johnson City, Tenn., and Carey Chapel Church, Mt. Pleasant. He retired in 1999 after 51 years in ministry.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Turner Gregory, Madison; daughter, Susan Gregory Suggs, New Orleans; son, Steve Gregory and wife Pamela, Ridgeand; son David Gregory and wife Ann, Ocean Springs; daughter, Angie Gregory Hardin and husband Bill, Madison; daughter, Jenny Gregory Littlefield and husband Barry, Ecru; 13 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, his mother Gladys Gregory, 92, four sisters and numerous nieces and nephews.

## STATE CHANGES



2. Davis and wife, Faith Church, Jackson

1. Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, has called Danny Singleton as pastor. He and his wife, Laura, children Anna Laura, Jonathan, Matthew, Nathan, and Hannah Kate come from First Church, Woodstock, Ga.

2. Faith Church, Jackson, has called H. Cliff Davis as pastor, effective Oct. 1. He and his wife Mary were missionaries for the North American Mission Board for 10 years in West Virginia. He has pastored in Mississippi, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Maryland, and served as interim executive director of missions in Alaska.

3. Union Church, Meridian, has called Dennis Ellingburg as pastor. He has served several churches in Mississippi and Alabama for the past 10 years, and holds degrees from Mississippi College, Trinity College, and Liberty University. He comes with his wife Kristy and sons Noah Edward and Ethan Weldon.



Ellingburg

4. Harmony Church, Louisville, has called Andrew Hardy as youth director. Hardy, from Philadelphia, is a student at Mississippi



4. Hardy and Lundy, Harmony Church, Louisville



6. Wooten and family, Mt. Olive Church, Coila

State and is student teaching at Ackerman High School. Shown are Hardy and pastor Jerry Lundy.

5. Oak Hill Church, Meridian, has called Lenny Joiner as minister of youth.

6. Mt. Olive Church, Coila, has called Jody Wooten as pastor. Wooten began in July and ordination services were held Aug. 6. Shown are Wooten, his wife Sheena, daughter Olivia and son, Ben.

## REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

**Arkabulta Church, Arkabulta:** Homecoming, Oct. 22, 10:30 a.m.; Chris Twilley, Cleveland, speaker.

**Benton Church, Benton:** Homecoming, Oct. 22; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship luncheon; Charles Moore, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Meridian:** 125th anniversary, Oct. 29; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground; David Michel, speaker; Lamar Lifer, pastor.

**Calvary Church, Oak Grove:** Revival, Oct. 22-25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; David Grumbach, speaker; Bernie Parker, music; Jeff Floyd, pastor; for information, call (601) 264-7338.

**Central Church, Brookhaven:** Homecoming, Oct. 29; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch, fellowship time, and afternoon music; Gary Strehlow, speaker; Brad and Joy Johnson, music.

**Crossroads Church, Petal:** Homecoming, Oct. 15; services, 10 a.m., followed by lunch; singing, 1:30 p.m.

**First Church, Lexington:** Homecoming and revival, Oct. 15-18; Sun., worship 11 a.m., followed by lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m. with light lunch; Frank Gunn, speaker; Terry Busby and The Naturals, music.

**First Church, Rose Hill:** Homecoming, Oct. 22; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch and special music; church history presented by Charles Chatham; Eddie Martin, speaker and pastor; Bluff City Quartet, Memphis, music.

**Georgetown Baptist Church:** Homecoming, October 29, Music by: "The Providential's", Speaker: Gary White, Service at 10:45 a.m. followed by dinner in the fellowship hall.

**Gooden Lake, Belzoni:** Homecoming, Oct. 15; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by potluck lunch; Dan Woodward, speaker; New Genesis, music; Bob Gilliland, pastor.

**Liberty Church, Newton County:** Homecoming, Oct. 22; worship, 10 a.m., followed by dinner; for information, call (601) 683-0503.

**Old Mount Nebo Church, Bay Springs:** 180th anniversary, Oct. 22; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and gospel singing; The Gospel Strings, music. For information, call (601) 670-0016 or 764-2996.

**Pearl Valley Church, Wesson:** Centennial celebration, Oct. 21-22; Sat., cake cutting kickoff, 2-4 p.m.; Sun., worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds, centennial celebration, and precious memories; call (601) 894-4614 or 894-3496 for information.

**Shiloh Church, Big Creek:** Revival, Oct. 22-25; Tim Gordon, Brookhaven, speaker and music; for information, call (662) 628-5949.

**Utica Church, Utica:** Revival, Oct. 15-18; 7 p.m. nightly; Clarence Cooper, speaker; Kinsey Goldman, music.

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# Practical Principles for Christian Living

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 9

## You Give Them Something to Eat: World Hunger Emphasis

**M**aking disciples involves leadership and Jesus worked very hard to instill leadership qualities into the twelve around Him. If you look back at Luke 8:51, Jesus allows Peter, John, and James to accompany Him as he brings a dead girl back to life. In Luke 9:1 ff, Jesus sends the twelve disciples out on a trial run and gets them some much needed experience. After Jesus is crucified, resurrected, and ascended into heaven, the disciples will have learned from this valuable experience of preaching and healing.

The natural result of Jesus' work and the twelve disciples' preaching and healing was that the crowds had started rumors all over the country. Herod the tetrarch was confused because he had recently had John the Baptist beheaded. Now some were saying that Jesus was John resurrected. Others thought Jesus was Elijah or one of the prophets.

As nightfall came, thousands of people surrounded Jesus and His disciples straining to hear His words or stretching toward Him to receive His healing touch. The disciples realized that between them, they had five loaves of bread and two fish, which would have been hardly a meal for the thirteen of them alone. Their solution was to send the crowd away. Jesus had other plans:

*"You give them something to eat." (v.13a)*

The disciples had been digesting Jesus' teaching for a long time. They had just that day returned from a preaching and healing tour. The power of God was evi-

dent, yet now they fall back to the physical, leaving the supernatural out of mind and therefore out of reach.

Jesus is calling all Christians to feed the hungry masses. We cannot be selfish and gorge ourselves on the pure milk of the word or the honey-flavored scroll without sharing what we have found. We must teach the spiritually starving to eat, how to survive the spiritual famine the world is stricken with because of sin.

Jesus met the disciples where they were mentally as He does for all of us. After commanding them to organize the crowd into groups of fifty, He looked up to heaven to remind the disciples where the power comes from. Jesus broke the bread and fish and kept giving them to the disciples to set before the people.

After this great miracle had taken place, Jesus was praying alone (the disciples were there) and suddenly he stopped praying as if the Father had just told Him, "Ask the disciples who they think you are." He did and they echoed the rumors from the crowd: John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets. Jesus took it a step farther. "But who do you say that I am." Peter answered, "The Christ of God."

Jesus' desire was never to have a group of mindless robots follow Him around and do whatever He said. His goal was to start a revolution on the entire planet that would start with the lives of twelve men. Jesus poured Himself into His disciples teaching them how to preach the kingdom of God and to rely on the presence and power of God. In the same way, God's desire is for you to be a food server for the rest of your life.

The world is starving and we have the Bread of Life. You give them something to eat.

Jesus fed the hungry crowd physically as well as spiritually. Mississippi Baptists have the opportunity to do the same. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Mississippi has the highest percentage of households in poverty — 21.3 percent. Mississippi also has the lowest median household income at \$32,938. One way to help alleviate hunger is by giving generously to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Gifts to the fund are used 100 percent for ministry projects. The International Mission Board receives eighty percent and the North American Mission Board receives twenty percent. All projects have an intentional spiritual strategy and all projects have "on the ground" accountability. Southern Baptist personnel are there from the very beginning. On the local level, you can give to your association's effort to alleviate hunger or have a food pantry in your church. One church has a casserole ministry where members bake casseroles and bring them to the church's freezer. When the need arises, the food is delivered.

Faced with the problem of feeding so many people, the disciples had the attitude that "it's their problem and they can deal with it." They said, "Send the crowd away." Another attitude was "it's their problem and we can't fix it." They said, "Let them go to the villages and countryside and find food." But Jesus had a different way of seeing their need. His attitude was "it's our problem and we will deal with it." He said, "Have the people sit down." We as Mississippi Baptists have the opportunity to deal with hunger like Jesus did.

United States Postal Service

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## THE VILLAGE VIEW



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The Baptist Children's Village wants to extend a very special thank you to Swannanoa Social Tribe of Mississippi College for their recent sacrifice and hard work. Swannanoa brought 95 ladies to volunteer at The Baptist Children's Village on Saturday, October 7th. These ladies folded and stuffed 9,800 letters and envelopes for The BCV Thanksgiving direct-mail fundraiser. The ladies worked so hard that they got this done in less than two hours. They also worked to trim the Campbell's Labels that so many individuals and church groups throughout the state have sent the BCV. In less than an hour, these ladies trimmed nearly 10,000 labels. After their work, the ladies spent time on the playground with the BCV residents. They will also host the India Nunnery Campus residents at Mississippi College on October 31st for a scavenger hunt and other games and activities.

## LONG-DISTANCE PHONE CARDS

The Baptist Children's Village needs your help to provide long-distance phone cards to help our residents stay connected to their parents/families. We ask that the phone cards be at least 100 minute cards.

Please mail the phone cards to:

The Baptist Children's Village  
C/O Public Relations Dept  
PO Box 27 • Clinton MS 39060-0027





## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Take Hold of Contentment

1 Timothy 6:3-19

By Arthur Story

In Philippians 4:13 Paul said, "I have learned to be content in whatever circumstance I am." When was the last time you heard someone say something like that? Regardless of their lot in life, most people today aren't content. In fact, a number of industries would suffer if people were to ever become content. If people were content with their looks, the cosmetic surgery industry would take a significant financial hit. If people were content with their material possessions, the credit card and banking industry would take a hard hit. If people were content with themselves, the alcohol industry would experience a financial down turn. If people were content many things would change. Contentment would lead to decreased theft, murder, lying, and more.

This week's study from 1 Timothy 6 looks at our need to take hold of contentment. This is a significant challenge in our day and requires constant focus in the midst of a world filled with discontented people. Consistent with our previous two studies from 1 Timothy (1:3-4; 4:7), this week's lesson begins with a reference to false teachers and their teachings. How are false teaching and contentment tied together? As Paul points out, false teachers are seeking their own gain and not godliness (verse 5). They are prideful, arrogant, and concerned only about themselves. They use the pretense of godliness for their own benefit (verse 5). This is a sharp contrast to the true godliness of a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith that Paul previously identified (1:5). These

Story

be the dispensers of wisdom but in reality they are incapable of helping anyone including themselves. The impotence of their teaching is seen in the resulting "envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings," and "perverse disputings" (verses 4-5). The fruit of their teaching and lives prove that selfishness never leads to contentment.

If the false teachers Paul describes had only taken the time to study sound doctrine they would have realized that the benefits of true godliness far surpass any material gains they could have received (verse 6-8). True godliness leads to contentment, which is "great gain." No amount of material gain can ever bring contentment. The craving never ends, especially since there

will always be something you don't possess. In college I met a young man in his early twenties that seemed to have it all. He had a large paid for house, two cars, a lucrative salary, an incredible family business to inherit, and most anything you could imagine. Yet in spite of all that he possessed he decided to take his own life. His earthly wealth could not provide him the contentment he desired. We came into this world with nothing and we will take nothing from it when we leave (verse 7, Job 1:21, Ecclesiastes 5:15). Contentment comes from godliness not things. Godliness brings the contentment to live in any circumstance with basic needs being met (verse 8). No amount of material gain can provide that kind of contentment.

If this isn't enough to see that contentment cannot be found apart from God, Paul points to the dangers of greed (verses 9-10). Those who desire riches find themselves in all sorts of problems. Paul's use of the image of a snare is fitting (verse 9). An animal snare uses bait to divert the attention of the prey so that it doesn't see the trap. Chasing after riches

works the same way. The individual's desire for riches leads him to only look at the potential reward and never at the real danger that surrounds it. Paul reinforces this image by highlighting the truth that "the love of money is the root of all evil" (verse 10). Notice that he didn't say money is the root of all evil. Money is amoral. It is neither good (moral) nor evil (immoral); however, when someone loves money they open themselves to the possibility of all sorts of evils. True contentment can never be found in the love of money, money itself, or its pursuit.

How then should we live in order to experience godly contentment? As Paul instructs Timothy, we should flee from selfish, greedy, unrighteous desires. We should pursue righteousness (verse 11). In addition, we should provide instruction to others, especially those with earthly riches who may more easily become ensnared by the attitudes of greed and selfishness (verse 17-19).

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Live in Hope

Hebrews 6:13-28

By Cyndi Grace

*My Hope is built on nothing less, Than Jesus blood and righteousness...*

When I moved out on my own, my daddy told me to make sure I had enough insurance because I never knew what was going to happen. We lived on the coast during Hurricane Camille and relied upon insurance to help rebuild and recover. Sadly, we have seen since Hurricane Katrina many relying on insurance in recovery have been sorely disappointed. Man's provisions for disasters are temporary at best and often fall short. In the face of persecution and hardships the Jewish Christians desired to return to the physical provisions of the

Levitical priests for spiritual security. The writer of Hebrews points instead to God's final and perfect provision through the High Priest of Jesus Christ; the one who will never fail, never die and is always reliable. Dependence on this High Priest, however, required faith not sight. In the uncertainty of our world today, these scriptures are profound in our understanding of authentic hope.

Notice these realities: **God made a promise; it is impossible for God to lie.** (vs. 13, 18) Because of this, verse 19 says we can seize the hope before us! Observe that hope is before us not beside us or behind us! We need to be looking forward and as we do, grab on to our hope which is Christ Jesus. Remember in Hebrews 12:2 Jesus kept His

Grace

short of what God truly intended for us. Look to your High Priest! We are promised, through Jesus, life and life abundant.

**Real hope is based upon truth.** We are flanked on all sides by relativism, believing truth is ever changing, but only absolute truth provides authentic hope. So, what is truth? Jesus dealt with this question as he spoke with Pilate "...Jesus answered, "...for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me." "What is truth?" Pilate asked. John 18:37-38 (NIV) Jesus had answered that question in John 14:6. I am the way, the truth and the life. As Peter walked the stormy waves, truth stood before

him. Even the waves were solid ground when he looked only upon the truth. Jesus is our truth and the testimony to the promise of God. No longer do we need to rely upon human priests or animal sacrifices for our hope. Jesus is the new and eternal covenant.

Even as I write these words, it appears many in the church don't actually believe this truth! They seem to be merely spoken and not taken deep into our hearts! If we believed them, we would be living more in hope and victory instead of defeat. Paul understood how to grasp this hope for in Philippians 3:10 he stated that he wanted to know Christ; to really know Him in power, fellowship, conformity and even death. Then he says: I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (Philippians 3:12) This is the real hope...when we take hold of Him He takes hold of us! This is the solid ground I stand upon when the storms come into my life. Jesus is truth and He is ever interceding, protecting and loving me.

I came to a point where it was either believe God and focus on Him or live in misery and bitterness. I chose to believe God's promises and I can honestly say whatever comes into my life I know He is aware and is working for my good.

Do you in fact believe God will accomplish what He said? What truth do you hold to? Are there distractions keeping you from your hope? The waves were a distraction for Peter...Jesus was truth! Are you willing to see the joy before you and not the distractions beside or behind? That is grabbing for genuine hope! That is fantastic insurance! I encourage you to seize and claim the following Psalm today and live in the hope of its truth:

*Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.*

*Your faithfulness continues through all generations; Psalm 119:89-90a (NIV)*

Grace is a women's conference speaker and women's ministry director at Highland Church, Vicksburg.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

**THE BAPTIST**  
**Record**

Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



# Christian ump lets Jesus shine through during games

ST. LOUIS (BP) — Major League umpire Ted Barrett, who just finished working the National League Division Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the New York Mets, doesn't find too many players or managers willing to mess with him when they disagree with a call.

For one thing Barrett is physically imposing. At 6-foot-4, 250 pounds, he's bigger than most guys on the field. For another, Barrett is a former amateur boxer. Add that to his size, and you get an umpire from whom players would just as soon steer clear.

"He's a golden glove boxer, so don't get in his face," St. Louis Cardinals first base coach Dave McKay said of Barrett.

Despite the apparent barriers, Barrett is approachable. In a poll Sports Illustrated conducted this year of 470 Major League players, Barrett was tied for third as the best umpire in the game. Maybe that's because of the way he goes about his job.

"You don't want to be perceived as weak," Barrett said. "The players see me, and I try to laugh and smile on the field a lot, and I enjoy my job, but I don't want to be perceived as 'Here's somebody we can just run over.'"

What Barrett hopes even more is that the characteristics of Christ are shining forth through his life, attracting others and pointing them to his God. As he matures as a Christian, Barrett often finds himself acting in ways that run counter to the umpiring culture.

"Even though I was a Christian in the minor leagues, I wasn't trying to be Christ-like. I was trying to be umpire-like," said Barrett, a member of Rock Point Church in Gilbert, Arizona. "I realized I needed to start living this too, not just in my life, but in my work. It bends everything that's been in the tradition of umpiring for 100 years."

Barrett pointed to forgiveness as an example. Most umpires try to keep a healthy distance between themselves and the players, even when a player or coach tries to apologize for his behavior.

"Take your apology and stick it" is a common response from an umpire, but Barrett remembers an encounter he had with Doug Mansolino, now the third base coach for the Houston Astros. At the time, Mansolino was the bench coach for the Detroit Tigers, and Barrett had ejected him from a game for his behavior.

The next day, Barrett was working third base, where Lance Parrish was the third base coach. "Doug wanted me to tell you he's sorry," Barrett said Parrish told him.

Barrett said apologizing by proxy is a tactic players and coaches often employ. He's not crazy about the practice, and he nearly told Parrish what he thought about it.

"Right away I was about to come back and say, 'Tell Doug to come and tell me himself. Tell him to stick it,'" Barrett said, "but in my mind, I think God was just laying it on me, saying, 'I've forgiven you of so much. You need to forgive.'"

So Barrett told Parrish to relay a message to Mansolino: "Tell him I forgive him."



**BIG PRESENCE** — Major League umpire Ted Barrett listens to then-manager Larry Bowa of the Philadelphia Phillies protest one of his calls. (BP photo courtesy of Michael Zagaris/MLB Photos)

"That was about seven years ago," Barrett said, "and now, every time I see Doug, he comes over and says 'Hi' and brightens up, and he's a hard, crusty guy. So, I think that probably ministered to him a lot. It completely goes against the grain of how we're supposed to behave."

Barrett said his Christian beliefs manifest themselves in his job in other ways. On the field, he tries to handle situations in a godly manner, especially when conflict comes — and conflict will come.

"It's hard not to lash back," Barrett said. "The biggest thing I try to do is listen. I try to be slow to anger. Soft-spoken answers sometimes turn back wrath."

He also tries to assess the situation and discern where the manager or player is coming from and what the motive is. If they have a legitimate complaint,

Barrett tries to give them room to air their grievance — "but if I think a guy's trying to manipulate me or mess with me for some reason, I let them know I'm not going to put up with that," Barrett said. "I will get angry at times, if I think they're trying to do something that's not fair to me or the other team. I try not to overreact."

Mike Port, Major League Baseball's vice president of umpiring, said the qualities of tolerance, dignity, knowledge, ability, and diplomatic control are necessary to excel in the job. "While Major League Baseball is fortunate to have a great number of umpires who fit that profile, certainly Ted Barrett is right up there in those respects," Port said. "He is now a 10-year veteran, and yet seems to keep right on improving, which is no surprise given the pride he takes in his work."

"To say he is respected by his peers is an understatement, as many look to him as an example and rely on his stability."

Umpiring, however, is a thankless job. Everybody — players, managers, fans — expects perfection. Get every call right, and few will notice. Miss a call, especially a game-changing call, and get death threats.

"I think a good umpire is someone who blends in," McKay said. "He doesn't stand out."

The job isn't without its lighter moments. Barrett remembers one time when Terry Collins was managing the Angels and came out to argue a call. "Ted, I've gotta get run. I've gotta get run," Barrett said Collins told him. "Will you run me?"

"Yeah, OK," Barrett replied. "I'm gonna throw my hat, and then you can run me," Barrett said Collins told him.

Barrett said Collins started yelling and making a scene. "I've got this player over here, and he quit on me," Barrett said Collins griped. "My third base coach thinks he's the manager. These fans are all over me."

All the while Collins is waving his arms and raising a ruckus. Barrett started to chuckle. "Don't you laugh," Barrett said Collins, in his face, told him. "Don't you laugh. If you laugh, they'll know what I'm doing."

Such encounters happen more than most people might think, Barrett said. Another time, Jim Tracy was managing the Los Angeles Dodgers, and Barrett had made two calls on close plays at home plate that had gone against the Dodgers. Tracy came out to argue.

"I know you got both of those right," Barrett said Tracy yelled. "I had a good look from the dugout. I know you got them right, but I've gotta go."

Tracy started kicking dirt on the plate and after a brief tirade got ejected from the game. Barrett said Tracy calmly said, "All right, I'll see you tomorrow."

Whatever the situation, Barrett said his goal is to communicate the Gospel to his colleagues by the way he conducts himself. "If I can have an attitude that's reflective of Christ and trying to be obedient to Him, I think that speaks volumes to the people I work with," Barrett said. "The reputation I strive for is, 'He's a good guy, but we don't want to mess with him.' That would be the ultimate compliment a player could give me."

## NAMB trustees to implement new agency policies, guidelines

ALPHARETTA, GA (BP — North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees approved a new set of policies and guidelines at their October 4 meeting designed to clarify existing procedures and implement new accountability for future leaders of the Southern Baptist entity.

The specially appointed Executive Level Policy Committee presented a report that was adopted unanimously by NAMB trustees. The committee, chaired by Larry Thomas of Heber Springs, Ark., was created following a March 24 trustee report that detailed concerns about former NAMB President Bob Reccord's leadership. Reccord resigned April 17.

A cover memo from the committee stated, "Throughout these recommendations, you will see certain threads repeated: Full disclosure, accountability, priority of NAMB ministry over personal ministries."

The committee report focuses on four areas of oversight: presidential accountability; issues raised by Capin Crouse, an independent auditing firm; changes

to NAMB's bylaws; and a set of miscellaneous recommendations.

In the area of presidential oversight, trustees approved a requirement that NAMB's president spend no less than 60% of his time on campus at NAMB. The president can request an adjustment in this percentage from the trustee executive committee.

"Because the president is the administrator of NAMB, it necessitates time in the office," the document states. "He is also our public relations leader and needs to spend significant time with our cooperative partners. The 60-40 guideline provides a healthy balance."

In addition to an annual review process already in place, the new policies require the president to submit a Quarterly Deliverables report to trustees. The trustees' financial services committee also has been charged with conducting an audit of executive level financial transactions once every two years.

The new policies also require that NAMB's president obtain trustee approval before implementing a new

strategy or initiative or before making a significant change in an existing initiative.

"We have consulted with the executive leadership team and NAMB human resources to formulate these policies," the committee stated. "We have sought to avoid overreaction or letting the pendulum swing too far in the other direction."

Areas addressed at the recommendation of Capin Crouse included conflicts of interest as related to NAMB staff engaging in outside employment, receiving honoraria, serving interim pastorates and accepting gifts. The approved document also included guidelines for determining the ownership of intellectual property.

"NAMB is not a platform to profit from personal ministries," the committee stated. "Our concern for this perceived abuse is a primary motivation behind our management recommendations in this section."

The policy document also includes an in-depth description of how NAMB's request for proposal (RFP) process should work when contracts or agree-

ments involving more than \$100,000 or for periods greater than a year are being considered. This section of the document is meant to "prevent a repeat of past controversies over outsourcing," the committee stated. Reccord was criticized by trustees for outsourcing NAMB's media operations to an outside firm without following adequate RFP procedures.

A detailed open door or whistleblower policy also was approved, included to ensure protections for employees who feel their jobs may be at risk if they speak out against or question leadership practices or policies.

NAMB bylaws dealing with presidential authority and the appointment of committees also were amended to better reflect the new policies approved by the trustees.

In a section of the policy document titled, "Trustee Recommendations Related to Committees," the policy committee made several recommendations for future action related to building strong relations with state conventions, improving NAMB trustee orientation and employee compensation.